

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 532

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Shigeko Uppuluri upon receiving The Foreign Minister's Commendation Award from the Consul-General of Japan.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in honoring those distinguished citizens who have devoted their lives to promoting understanding, friendship, and peace among nations; and

WHEREAS, a lady of "inner peace and outer strength," Shigeko Uppuluri continues to make a lasting impact on Oak Ridge and the larger world through her service at home and in the international community; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2016, Shigeko Uppuluri will receive The Foreign Minister's Commendation Award in recognition of her contributions to the friendship and understanding between Oak Ridge and Japan and her work in building relationships between her native Japan and her adopted country, the United States; the award will be presented by Masami Kinefuchi, the Consul-General of Japan; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Uppuluri is being honored for her work in the creation and maintenance of the Oak Ridge Sister City Support Organization and its sister city agreement with Naka, Japan; she has advocated for and participated in exchanges between the two cities, and her efforts have contributed to goodwill and understanding that Japan and Oak Ridge share; and

WHEREAS, a founder, past president, and active member of the Oak Ridge Sister City Support Organization, Ms. Uppuluri prepares seventh graders and city officials for their exchange trips to Naka; she has also taught college students and others who wish to learn about the culture and the language of her native country and served as translator and guide for visitors and companies in both Japan and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Uppuluri is also being honored for her instrumental role in the dedication of the International Friendship Bell, a bell cast in Japan and installed twenty years ago to celebrate Oak Ridge's fiftieth anniversary and exemplify that special occasion's theme: "Born of war, living for peace, growing through science"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Uppuluri and her late husband, Dr. Ram Uppuluri, originally from India, proposed and raised funds to install the bell in Oak Ridge's Bissell Park as a symbol of unity and a monument representing peace and friendship with Japan; the International Friendship Bell has now become a symbol of Oak Ridge, featured on brochures and rung in celebrations; and

WHEREAS, a native of Kyoto, Japan, Shigeko Uppuluri studied English at Doshisha Women's College, before coming to America to commence graduate studies in anthropology at Indiana University; and

WHEREAS, she met her future husband there, and after Ram Uppuluri completed his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, the family, including their two-year-old son, Rammy, moved to Oak Ridge in 1963; and

WHEREAS, while her husband worked at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Shigeko Uppuluri became involved in the community as a volunteer for many organizations and a strong advocate for Japanese-American friendship; and

WHEREAS, Dr. and Ms. Uppuluri became American citizens in 1972, and in 1977, she began work at ORNL, helping build databases for carcinogens and teratogens for the National Library of Medicine; never content to rest on her laurels, Ms. Uppuluri also translated technical papers, attended meetings in Japan, taught Japanese language and cultural norms to researchers from ORNL who were going abroad, and participated in local international events; and

WHEREAS, following her retirement and her husband's death, Shigeko Uppuluri worked for three years in India helping young professionals as they prepared for careers with Japanese

software companies, but then returned to Oak Ridge, where she has continued her volunteer work with the Girl Scouts and the Children's Museum; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, she received the Covenant Platinum Award, which is given to people for their accomplishments after the age of sixty-five; and

WHEREAS, Shigeko Uppuluri has made significant contributions to the mutually beneficial relationship that the United States and Japan now enjoy, and this remarkable lady is most deserving of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Shigeko Uppuluri upon receiving The Foreign Minister's Commendation Award in recognition of her contributions to building the sister city relationship between Oak Ridge and Naka, Japan, and her work in promoting friendship and cooperation between Japan and the United States; thank her for a lifetime of public service in many different arenas; and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.